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Measures for sanitary improvement.

An earnest effort is being made by the board of health, or sanitary commission, of this State to rid the country of the mosquito and of the diseases of which that insect is the medium of transmission; and, further, to effect a general and much needed improvement in the sanitary conditions of the country, particularly of the city of Merida. The measures used are the instruction of the people as to the importance of the work, appeals to their individual interest and to their public spirit, house to house inspection of persons and premises, listing of nonimmunes, isolation of all suspected and confirmed cases, prompt disinfection of infected premises, and the usual means for destruction and prevention of the mosquito.

In this town, Progreso, and vicinity the elimination of the mosquito will be very difficult because of a swamp at the south border of the town. This marsh extends a long distance east and west, so that filling would be too costly, while its level is so nearly that of the Gulf as to make drainage impracticable or impossible. Throughout Mexico the authorities seem determined to secure improvement of health conditions.

Report from Tampico—Inspection of vessels—Heavy rainfall—Probable large increase in number of mosquitoes.

Assistant Surgeon McClintic reports, July 4, as follows:

During the week ended July 2, 1904, 5 bills of health were issued. The 2 vessels fumigated were the British steamship *Oldhamia*, crew of 33, for Norfolk via New York, and the British steamship *Mountfields*, crew of 24, for Pensacola.

The mortality report for the city of Tampico and vicinity shows, for the 2 weeks ended July 2, a total of 36 deaths from all causes, including measles, 3; tuberculosis, 1; pneumonia, 4, and smallpox, 1. Measles is epidemic in the city.

Rains have been frequent and very heavy during the past week, and at present a considerable portion of the town is inundated, so that to get about from house to house in the streets it is necessary to use boats. This is the case along the river front and in the low-lying districts where the poorer people principally live. Experience has taught them that when the water subsides they will be visited by disease, and consequently the future is looked forward to with considerable fear and anxiety.

The waters are so high as to almost cut off Tampico from outside communication. The mosquitoes up to the present time have not been troublesome, but on account of the heavy rains and the large areas of fresh water at their disposal for breeding, their appearance in great abundance is anticipated.

Reports from Veracruz, weekly and monthly—Inspection of vessels—Yellow fever—Decrease in number of mosquitoes.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Lumsden reports, July 5 and 12, as follows: During the week ended July 2, 1904, 5 vessels bound for United States ports were inspected and given bills of health. The

following vessels were fumigated with sulphur dioxide and given certificates: June 28, American steamship *Havana*, bound for New York via Progreso and Habana; July 2, Norwegian steamship *Norheim*, bound for New Orleans. The *Havana* was fumigated because there had been a case of yellow fever among the first-cabin passengers on board during the run from Progreso to this port, and the fumigation was conducted with a view to killing all mosquitoes possibly on the vessel.

During the week there were recorded in the city of Veracruz 26 deaths (41.6 per 1,000 annual death rate) from all causes, including 1 from yellow fever (case brought from Progreso on steamship *Havana*; death occurred June 26), 2 from pernicious fever, 2 from remittent fever, and 3 from tuberculosis. Four new cases of yellow fever were reported—2 on June 29 and 2 on June 30. All of the cases were of local infection, 3 of them being among the soldiers at the military barracks.

REPORT FOR JUNE, 1904.

During the month of June, 1904, there were reported 11 cases of yellow fever, with 3 deaths. Of these cases 2 were infected at Merida and were ill when they arrived at Veracruz. For the corresponding month of last year there were reported 110 cases, with 36 deaths.

During the last two weeks the rains in this vicinity have been frequent and heavy. The number of mosquitoes has decreased somewhat. That mosquitoes may be less numerous for a few days after a series of heavy rains can be understood when it is considered that during a heavy downpour of rain many adult mosquitoes not successful in finding shelter must perish, while many in the larval and pupal stages must, in a city located as is Veracruz, be carried in the overflow from various natural and artificial water containers through the gutters into the sea.

During the week ended July 9, 1904, six vessels bound for United States ports were inspected and given bills of health.

During the week there were recorded in the city of Veracruz 37 deaths (59.2 per 1,000, annual death rate) from all causes, including 1 from yellow fever, 2 from remittent fever, 2 from pernicious fever, 1 from pneumonia, and 10 from tuberculosis. Two new cases of yellow fever were reported, 1 on July 5 and 1 on July 6.

NICARAGUA.

Report from Bluefields, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Reilley reports as follows: Week ended July 2, 1904. Present officially estimated population, 4,000; 1 death; prevailing disease, malarial fever of mild type; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
July 1	Banan.....	16	0	0	0
2	Utstein.....	15	0	0	0